

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 04382 221300Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W

----- 083250

R 221116Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1553

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS BERN 4382

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT SZ

SUBJ: SWISS GENERAL ELECTIONS

1. SUMMARY: ELECTIONS FOR BOTH HOUSES OF SWISS PARLIAMENT OCT 26 ARE ALMOST SURE TO RESULT IN ONLY MINOR CHANGES IN DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS. CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN VERY QUIET, WITH NO REAL ISSUES. UNDER SWISS SYSTEM, ELECTION RESULTS WILL IN ANY EVENT NOT CHANGE COMPOSITION OF COLLEGIATE EXECUTIVE. END SUMMARY.

2. WHAT EVEN VETERAN SWISS OBSERVERS CONSIDER ONE OF THE LEAST EXCITING ELECTION CAMPAIGNS IN HISTORY IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE. IN ABSENCE OF ANY SYSTEMATIC POLLING THERE IS LITTLE TO GO ON IN PRIDICTING OUTCOME, BUT THERE IS SOUNDLY BASED EXPECTATION OF HARDLY ANY SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN VOTER PREFERENCES OF THE PAST SEVERAL DECADES, THOUGH VAGARIES OF ELECTORAL SYSTEM COULD RESULT IN SHIFTS OF A FEW SEATS. THE FOUR MAJOR PARTIES OF THE CENTER WILL AGAIN EMERGE WITH THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE SEATS IN BOTH HOUSES.

3. MOST INTEREST IS FOCUSED ON HOW THE PARTIES OF THE EXTREME LEFT AND RIGHT WILL FARE. UNLIKE LAST NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN 1971, RIFHT-WING IS NOW BITTERLY DIVIDED BETWEEN NATIONAL ACTION AND SCHWARZENBACH'S REPUBLICANS AND SEVERAL SMALLER GROUPS. IT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BERN 04382 221300Z

SEEMS POSSIBLE THEY WILL LOSE SOME OF THEIR ELEVEN SEATS, WITH

LIBERALS AND SOCIALISTS THE LIKELY BENFACTORS. ON LEFT, THERE HAS ALSO BEEN PROFIFERATION OF PARTIES, BUT LABOR (COMMUNISTJL PARTY SEEMS LIKELY AT LEAST TO RETAIN ITS FIVE SEATS.

4. SUCH PARTISAN INTEREST AS ELECTION HAS GENERATED HAS CONCENTRATED ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, BUT AMONG THE THREE "BOURGEOIS" PARIES THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO DIFFERENCE IN APPROACH, AND SOCIALISTS DO NOT HAVE ANY CLEAR IDEAS ON HOW TO BEAT THE RECESSION EITHER. RISE IN UNEMPLOYMENT TO 12,000 (0.4 PERCENT OF WORK FORCE) MAY BRING MORE WORKING CLASS PEOPLE TO POLLS.

5. BY AND LARGE SWITZERLAND IDDBOILL AMRKED BY A VERY STABLE SOCIETY, CONSCIOUS OF THE GAINS ACHIEVED IN THE PAST DECADES, AND ANXIOUS TO CONSOLIDATE THEM. THIS SITUATION SHOULD TRANSLATE INTO A PATTEN OF LITTLE OR NO CHANGE AT THE POLLS ON OCT 26.
ODELL

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